

For immediate release

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U. S. Savings Bonds Poster Contest Award Ceremony held at Governor's Mansion

Jackson, Miss. – An awards ceremony was held at the Governor's Mansion today to honor the U.S. Savings Bonds Poster Contest Award winners.

The poster contest was sponsored by the U.S. Treasury Bureau of the Public Debt. This is the ninth annual student poster contest held by the U.S. Treasury Bureau. Contest brochures were mailed to more than 75,000 elementary schools nationwide, and the contest is open to students in grades 4 through 6. Posters were to show how Savings Bonds can help goals and dreams come true and include this year's theme: "U.S. Savings Bonds – Making Dreams a Reality."

"As we enter the 21st century, I am proud to see the positive programs that strive to enrich the education of our students," said Secretary Dick Riley, United States Department of Education. "The U.S. Savings Bonds National Student Poster Contest is a unique program that teaches our youth about saving."

Seventy-one poster entries from across the state were entered in Mississippi's contest. State Treasurer Marshall Bennett and Tim Hedgepeth of the Mississippi Arts Commissionserved as judges for this year's contest.

The three state winners were; first place, Andrew Tucker, a 6th grade student at Washington School in Greenville, MS, who receives a \$1,000 Savings Bond; second place, Beth Alexander, a 6th grade student home schooled student from Little Rock, MS, who receives a \$500 Savings Bond; and third place, Melvin Lee, a 4th grade student at R. H. Bearden Elementary School in Sumner, MS, who receives a \$200 Savings Bond. The state winners were presented their awards by the First Lady, Melanie Musgrove.

The first place winner's poster is automatically entered in the national competition. At the national level, the first, second and third place winners receive, respectively, \$5,000, \$2,000 and \$1,000 Savings Bonds at a ceremony in Washington, D.C.

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